I'LL PROB-ABLY...
...LEAVE FIRST.
HUH?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, SHIKO?
WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT DOWN THERE.
THAT WOULD BE USA-KUN, ANYWAY.
YOU'RE RIGHT
COULD YOU STOP CASUALLY SLANDER-ING ME?

SO CRUDE...!
WE'RE TALKING ABOUT WHO WILL MOVE OUT FIRST.
YEAH.
I'LL PROBABLY LEAVE FIRST.
WHAT...
WH-
WHY?
ARE YOU GOING TO LIVE OUTSIDE BECAUSE YOU FINALLY RAN OUT OF SAVINGS?
YOU CAN SLANDER ME ALL YOU WANT!
KEEP THE INSULTS COMING!
I'M STILL GOOD ON MONEY.
IT'S, UH...
FOR
FOR MY WRITING, I GUESS.

...
ALL I'VE BEEN ABLE TO DO IS WRITE (LOL).
?
BUT YOU CAN WRITE HERE.
LATELY YOU'VE BEEN WRITING (LOL) ALL THE TIME.
YEAH.
YOU'RE JUST EXPERIENCING WRITER'S BLOCK.
IF YOU TAKE A BREAK...
I TRIED MY BEST,
BUT IT WASN'T GOOD ENOUGH.
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU CAN'T WAIT ANY LONGER!
...
NOT WHILE I'M WRITING HERE.

THAT'S RIGHT.
I'VE...
..RESTED LONG ENOUGH.

SU-MIKO-SA...
NOT YET.
IIJIMA-KUN'S BEEN LOOKING.
I SEE...

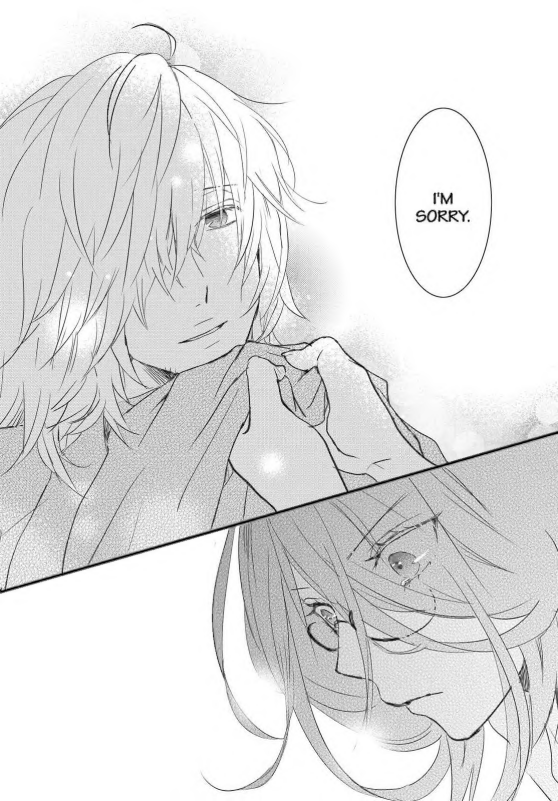
THEN—
SHIRO-KUN.
XO
PAT
HAVE YOU ALREADY DECIDED WHEN?
WHERE ARE YOU MOVING TO?

WAIT A MINUTE!

I'LL BE READY FOR YOU.
OKAY.
LET ME KNOW ONCE YOU DECIDE.

I CAN UNDERSTAND RIT-CHAN AND SAYAKA LEAVING!
BUT...
STAY FOR-EVER!
YOU HAVE TO STAY!
YOU CAN'T!
BUT...
YOU'RE DIFFER-ENT!
STOP.
MA-YU-MI-SAN?!
YANK
THIS ISN'T RIGHT!

DON'T...
...LEAVE ME BEHIND!


I'M SORRY.

...
DAMN IT.

HOW DARE YOU APOLOGIZE TO ME!
YOU DISGUSTING PIG!
ドッゴ
KAPOW
URGH!
GASP
SAYAKA! WE'RE GOING DRINKING!
SU-MIKO-SAN, YOU, TOO!
YOU DON'T NEED TO MAKE DINNER FOR HIM.
WHAT?!
OH, MY.
I'M GOING, TOO.
STAND

CLATTER
ガチャ
WE'LL BE BAAACK!
SLAM
バタン
WHAT...
I DON'T HAVE THE ENERGY TO COOK OR GO SHOPPING.
WANT A BIG CUP?
NOR-MAL'S FINE.
...IS GOING ON?
SHIRO-SAN...
ARE YOU REALLY LEAVING?

BUT YOU WERE TYPING SO MUCH.
LIKE A SUPER HACKER CLOD.
SLUUURP
SLUUURP
SLUUURP
YEAH.
I COULD MAKE ALL THE "BACK SCRATCHERS" I WANTED.
YEAH.
YEAH.
SLUUURP
SLURP
SLUUURP
DO YOU HAVE TO?
BUT I COULD NEVER REACH THE RIGHT SPOT.
I WAS JUST SO ITCHY.
I'M SCARED.
THAT THE ITCHING WILL GET WORSE?
FUWOO
FUWOO

IF THAT HAPPENS,
I HAVE A FEELING I'LL NEVER FEEL THE ITCH AGAIN.
I...
WANT TO FINISH THIS, NO MATTER WHAT.
THAT I'LL STOP ITCHING EVENTU-ALLY.
OR "FIN-ITCH" IT, SO TO SPEAK!
GOD, THAT'S LAME.
YOU HAVE NO TALENT.
TOUGH CRITIC.
SHRUG
YEAH.
BUT YOU SAID YOU FELT LIKE WRITING HERE.
SHRUG

I FELT COMFORTABLE HERE.
BUT IT'S NOT GOOD FOR WRITING.
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
YOU CAN BE STRANGELY DELICATE.
SLURP
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN THAT WAY.
SLULURP
WHAT A WASTE.
YOU'RE EVEN A MASOCHIST.
IT'S INTERESTING
AND FUN.
SO IF YOU FALL INTO A SLUMP AND STOP WRITING AGAIN,
YOU'LL COME BACK TO THE KAWAI COMPLEX, RIGHT?
HMMM.

I DON'T THINK
I COULD HAVE SO MUCH FUN RUNNING AWAY AGAIN.
OH...
I'M OUT OF NOODLES.
I SHOULD'VE HAD A BIG CUP.
IT'LL BE QUIET.
...
I DON'T HAVE A REASON TO LOOK DOWN ANYMORE.

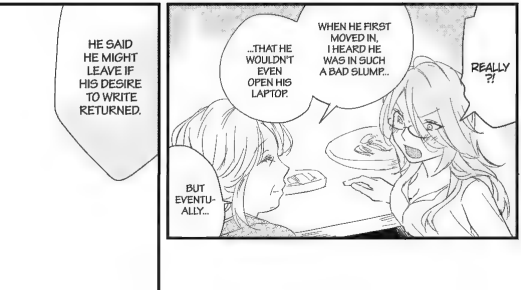
I'LL BE GLAD TO HAVE MORE SPACE IN MY ROOM!
I WON'T MISS YOU!
I'LL MISS YOU, THOUGH.

UH... SORRY?
IT'S NOT MY PROBLEM THAT YOU CAN'T SCRATCH YOUR ITCH!
COULD YOU STOP TEARING UP THE INSIDE OF MY HEAD?!
BESIDES, I'M STILL REELING FROM BEING TOLD SENPAI'S LEAVING AND WANT TIME TO THINK!
YOU'RE ACTING JUST LIKE MAYUMI-SAN.

USA-KUN, HOW DO YOU FEEL?
WHY DID SHE CHANGE HER MIND?
SHE SEEMED MAD, TOO. WHAT SHOULD I SAY?
GOD DAMN IT.

AND STAY LIKE THIS FOREVER?
I DON'T WANT HER TO LEA...
. . .
. . .
YOU'RE WAVERING.
DURING A BIG CHANGE,
IF YOU DON'T PRIORITIZE ESTABLISHING YOUR OWN FEELINGS, YOU'LL BE OVERWHELMED.
金華鹿
TWO MORE HOT SAKES!
YOU'RE DRINKING TOO FAST, MAYUMI-SAN.
SHE'S RIGHT. HAVE SOME WATER.
CHARGED ELECTRICITY
SIGN-KINKA-AN

SUMIKO-SAN, HOW CAN YOU BE SO CALM?!
WELL,
I REALIZED SHIRO-KUN WOULD BE MOVING OUT A WHILE AGO.
I WAS MENTALLY PREPARED.
THIS IS WHAT IT MEANS TO BITE THE HAND THAT FEEDS YOU!
YOU BEAT HIM, BUT YOU NEVER TOOK CARE OF HIM.
HE DIDN'T BITE YOU.
WHAT IS SHIRO THINK-ING?!
SHUT UP!
BUT MAYU-MI-SAN'S OUTBURST WAS EVEN MORE SUR-PRISING.
I WAS CERTAINLY SURPRISED.
WAS IT THAT MUCH OF A SHOCK FOR YOU?


HE SAID HE MIGHT LEAVE IF HIS DESIRE TO WRITE RETURNED.
BUT EVENTU-ALLY...
...THAT HE WOULDN'T EVEN OPEN HIS LAPTOP.
WHEN HE FIRST MOVED IN, I HEARD HE WAS IN SUCH A BAD SLUMP...
REALLY ?!

I KNEW IT WAS TIME.
SO WHEN SHIRO-KUN GOT HIS LAPTOP OUT...
HE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO WRITE WITHOUT A CHANGE IN HIS ENVIRONMENT.
THAT'S THE KIND OF PERSON HE IS.
I'M SORRY I KEPT IT SECRET.
THIS MUST BE SUDDEN FOR YOU.
BANG
NO MATTER WHO LEFT...
THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE!
HE'S BEEN PREPARING FOR THIS SINCE THAT LONG AGO?
HOW INFURIATING...

EVEN IF SAYAKA WENT BACK TO HER HICK TOWN TO TAKE OVER HER DAD'S MASK-MAKING BUSINESS,
OR RIT-CHAN GOT CARRIED AWAY AND BECAME A LUSTY COLLEGE STUDENT...
HE WAS SUPPOSED TO STAY HERE FOREVER.
AND BE MY SCUM-BAG NEET,
MY DOG, FOREVER.
AND...
LOOK ON ENVIOUSLY WHEN I PROUDLY MOVED OUT OF HERE WITH MY HIGH-SPEC BOYFRIEND!
HOW MEAN.
YOU DIDN'T WANT SHIRO-KUN TO CHANGE.
BUT REMEMBER WHAT I TOLD YOU, MAYUMI-CHAN.
IT'S NOT GOOD TO PROJECT YOUR DREAMS ONTO OTHERS.

DO YOU WANT...
DO YOU THINK THIS WAY?
WHAT WILL YOU DO?

SHIRT: TOTAL BREAKDOWN

MA...
MA-YUMI-SAA-AN?

THIS IS UNEXPECTED!
SHE'S SO...
なんか
SO SMALL.
SO FAINT.

STAY...
FLAP FLAP
たたた
...AWAY.
MAYU
たたた
FLAP FLAP
WHO ARE YOU?!
MAYUMI-CHAN'S CONFUSED FROM THINKING TOO MUCH.
THINKING CAUSES HER TO BREAK CHARACTER THAT MUCH?
JUST LEAVE HER ALONE FOR A WHILE.
...
I'M LEAVING EARLY TODAY.
TURN
OH...

THE FALL GAME TOURNA-MENT!